



PATENT APPLICATION

90B #10

9-30-Q3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): James Watt, et al.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING CONTROL
INFORMATION IN A SYSTEM USING DISTRIBUTED
COMMUNICATION ROUTING

App. No.: 09/352,562

Filed: 07/13/1999

Examiner: Emdadi, Kamran

Group Art Unit: 2664

Atty. Dkt. No. 1400.4100221

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SEP 12 2003

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action of 04/01/2003, Applicant submits the following:

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-25. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-25.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-22, and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitcher (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,142) in view of Steeves et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,185). Applicant respectfully disagrees. -

Applicant submits that, while the Examiner states that the forwarding engine of Pitcher et al. evaluates the destination address to forward the data packets based on information found in the packets, citing col. 9, lines 16-21, Applicant notes that Pitcher et al. merely distinguish IGMP from non-IGMP, as described in col. 9, lines 21-25. Such action does not disclose any of the features recited in claims 1-7, 9-22, or 24-25. Likewise, while the Examiner states that control information is found in the Dtag table 1000, Applicant submits that the cited portion of Pitcher et al. does not disclose any of the features recited in claims 1-7, 9-22, or 24-25. The Examiner conclusively states that MCP 320 obtains registration information, but fails to explain how MCP 320 would obtain registration